

### III. REMARKS

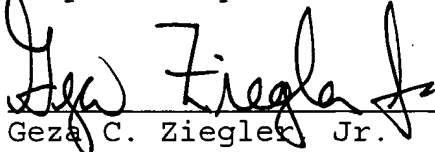
1. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 12 are amended. Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice.

2. Applicant appreciates the allowance of claim 13-20 and indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 12. Claims 1 and 12 are amended accordingly. Claims 2 and 9 are amended to clarify the language.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$88 is enclosed for an additional claim fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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7 OCTOBER 2004  
Date

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